

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

June 3, 2002
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Marshall, Deputy Mayor Degginger, Councilmembers Creighton, Davidson, Lee, Mosher, and Noble

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

Mayor Marshall opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and announced recess to executive session for approximately 20 minutes to discuss one item of property acquisition. At 6:35 p.m., the meeting resumed with Mayor Marshall presiding.

- ➡ Deputy Mayor Degginger moved to amend the agenda to discuss item 3(a) before item 2(a), and Mr. Mosher seconded the motion.
- ➡ The motion to amend the agenda carried by a vote of 7-0.

3. Discussion

- (a) Application of Novadyne Engineering, LLC, for rezone of 1.88 acres near the intersection of SE Cougar Mountain Way and 166th Way SE from R-1 (single family, 1 unit per acre) to R-1.8 (single family, 1.8 units per acre).
File No. LQ-00-244948.

Carol Helland, Land Use Director, described the application of Novadyne Engineering to rezone 1.88 acres near the intersection of SE Cougar Mountain Way and 166th Way SE from R-1 (single family, 1 unit per acre) to R-1.8.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Degginger, Ms. Helland said approval of the rezone will allow the development of four units on the site instead of the two units currently allowed.

Mayor Marshall noted that Council action on the rezone application is scheduled for June 17.

2. Study Session

(a) Budget Discussion – Planning and Community Development Department and Police Department

City Manager Steve Sarkozy said copies of the Utilities Department's budget presentation, scheduled for June 10, have been distributed to Council. He noted that the financial forecast will be presented in late June.

Matt Terry, Planning and Community Development Director, introduced the following division managers: John Backman, Administrative Services Director; Dan Stroh, Planning Director; Carol Helland, Land Use Director; and Mike Brennan, Building Division Director. The department's major program areas are building, land use, comprehensive planning, neighborhood outreach, affordable housing, code compliance, and community and economic development. Planning and Community Development's current budget totals \$14.9 million. Mr. Terry said changes in budget levels tend to reflect external economic and development activity. He noted that FTE (full-time employee) staffing has remained essentially the same since 1998. However, contract staff and limited-term employees have been utilized to respond to peaks in development activity.

Mr. Terry highlighted some of the department's key performance measures. According to a survey of residents, 63 percent expressed approval/satisfaction with the City's planning for the future (26 percent were neutral/did not know, and 11 percent were dissatisfied). For the Land Use division, 92 percent of applications are processed within the goal of 120 working days.

Mr. Terry reviewed four major policy issues within the Planning and Community Development Department: comprehensive planning work program, neighborhoods, economic development, and Development Services Improvement (DSI). He noted that DSI is a multi-department effort that will be discussed in more detail in a July presentation to Council. The comprehensive planning work program currently includes critical areas/shoreline regulations, the Downtown Implementation Plan update, annexation of the Eastgate area, updating the Eastgate Subarea Plan, and the Factoria Area Transportation Study.

Mr. Terry suggested that budget implications may warrant postponement of the Eastgate annexation for a year or two. He noted that construction to expand the Eastgate Park and Ride facility will begin soon and the Transportation Department is conducting an I-90 corridor study. Staff feels this would be a good time to update the Eastgate Subarea Plan. Mr. Terry said the Transportation Department is planning an update of the Factoria Area Transportation Study in 2003-2004. This may result in changes to the Factoria Subarea Plan requiring PCD staff involvement.

Mr. Terry noted the success of the recent Neighborhood Investment Strategy project in West Lake Hills. He requested Council discussion regarding the expansion of this program and related workload management. Staff recommends limiting these projects to once every several years, with the implementation of project ideas to occur in the intervening years. Mr. Terry explained it was necessary to delay some projects and temporarily shift staff resources to manage the West Lake Hills planning effort. Programs that will experience delays due to this shift of resources

include the Bellevue Basics program, neighborhood workshops, multifamily neighborhoods and partnership program, and support of the Neighborhood Networks.

Mr. Terry said the West Lake Hills effort identified \$12-24 million in near-term capital needs and \$7-17 million in long-term capital needs. He suggested that Council consider reprioritizing the Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan to provide a stronger emphasis on Neighborhood Investment Strategy items.

Moving to the third policy area, economic development, Mr. Terry said the current work program includes partnerships with business organizations, a business ombudsman (Economic Development Project Manager), planning initiatives, expansion of Meydenbauer Center, and the redevelopment of neighborhood shopping centers. Potential new initiatives include enhanced marketing efforts with the Bellevue Economic Partnership, GIS-based commercial property locator (partnership potential), and new projects (NE 8th Street Corridor, Crossroads, Downtown parking). Mr. Terry discussed the need to improve access and circulation around the NE 8th Street/Overlake area. The owner of Crossroads Shopping Center has expressed a desire to review the long-term viability and possible redevelopment of the center. Council and staff have been interested in addressing Downtown parking needs, regulations, and facilities.

Mr. Terry said the purpose of the Development Services Improvement (DSI) project is to review and improve the City's delivery of permitting services. Five City departments are working together on this effort and additional information will be presented to Council in July.

Mr. Terry reviewed Council's "memory bank" items identified in previous discussions. Some Councilmembers have expressed an interest in impact zoning, or zoning tailored to specific land use districts. Mr. Terry noted the packet materials describing impact zoning. He said staff has identified fairly significant policy implications for shifting from a use regulation system to an impact-based regulatory system. Councilmembers have also expressed an interest in developing performing arts facilities, perhaps through a partnership with Bellevue School District, for smaller cultural arts organizations not likely to be served by a larger performing arts center.

Responding to Mayor Marshall, Council expressed support for staff's work program related to critical areas/shoreline regulations. In reference to the DIP Update, Mr. Creighton noted the potential need for park/open space acquisitions in the downtown area. Mr. Lee encouraged an emphasis on incorporating innovative transportation systems (such as PRT, personal rapid transit) into the planning and design of the downtown.

Mr. Mosher expressed support for staff's suggestion to postpone the Eastgate annexation and to focus on broader planning for the area including an assessment of the fiscal impact of annexation.

Dr. Davidson is agreeable to delaying the Eastgate annexation but he is concerned about transportation issues and the potential for park acquisition/development in the area. Dan Stroh, Planning Director, said discussions about Eastgate Park and annexation continue with King County. He said it may be possible to separate the two issues. Mr. Sarkozy commented that the City is working to negotiate favorable terms with King County for a transportation project on

150th Avenue SE. Mayor Marshall summarized Council consensus to defer the Eastgate annexation.

Moving to the Eastgate Subarea Plan, Mrs. Marshall clarified that this applies to the portion of Eastgate already located within Bellevue's city limits. Mr. Terry commented that this area is likely to experience continued development activity due to its favorable transportation access.

Mayor Marshall asked staff to comment further on the prioritization of and resource needs for various projects. Mr. Terry ranked Factoria and Crossroads as top priorities. Eastgate annexation and circulation problems in the NE 8th Street corridor could be addressed down the road. He said a potential NE 10th Street extension, as outlined in the Downtown Implementation Plan, will have an impact on NE 8th Street as well. Mr. Terry said it will be necessary to hire a consultant to assist in the Factoria Area Transportation Study update.

Mr. Noble suggested a lower priority for the Eastgate Subarea Plan in light of the other Comprehensive Plan projects underway.

Mr. Lee expressed concern about transportation impacts in the Eastgate area and at the I-90 and I-405 interchange. He is concerned that the West Lake Hills neighborhood investment project diverted resources away from other programs.

Mr. Mosher feels the Eastgate and Factoria areas are in need of an enhanced planning emphasis. Deputy Mayor Degginger and Mr. Creighton concurred.

Responding to Dr. Davidson, Mr. Terry said the Factoria Area Transportation Study should be completed before updating the Factoria Subarea Plan as the results of the study could prompt Comprehensive Plan changes. Mr. Lee concurred.

Moving to the Neighborhood Investment Strategy (NIS) priority, Mrs. Marshall expressed support for the program and its promotion of citizen involvement. Mr. Degginger supports continuation of the program. He feels it has been very effective in terms of involving and educating the community. He commented that information provided in the Bellevue Basics program can now be provided in other ways such as the City's web site.

Mr. Terry noted that the Neighborhood Networks are ready to be self sufficient. He suggested shifting these resources to additional citizen involvement activities.

Dr. Davidson and Mr. Mosher expressed support for the NIS program. Mr. Noble concurred with staff's recommendation for a two-year cycle to allow adequate time to identify issues and work the projects into the CIP Plan. Mr. Lee encouraged the City to continue its outreach with more areas of the community including multifamily residents.

Mayor Marshall noted Council's support of the NIS program and the shifting of staff resources to accomplish its mission. Councilmembers agreed with Mr. Noble that NIS items should compete for CIP funding.

Deputy Mayor Degginger said the City and the business community should consider expanding resources for economic development because neighboring jurisdictions are competing to attract businesses. He encouraged a greater emphasis on marketing and “branding” Bellevue. Mr. Noble and Mr. Lee concurred.

Mr. Mosher expressed support for an enhanced marketing/branding effort. However, he feels a GIS-based commercial property locator tool would be more appropriate as a private-sector initiative. Mr. Creighton commented that economic development is critical in maintaining Bellevue’s overall quality of life.

Moving to Council’s memory bank items, Mayor Marshall and Deputy Mayor Degginger expressed an interest in exploring options for performing arts facilities with Bellevue School District. Mr. Creighton concurred and noted that school facilities might also be able to provide storage and office space.

At 7:51 p.m., Mayor Marshall declared recess to the regular session, to be followed by a continuation of the study session. At 8:32 p.m., the study session resumed.

Chief Jim Montgomery presented the Police Department’s budget proposal beginning with a discussion of neighborhood community services.. He said crime has declined in the past decade despite the increased population. Bellevue police officers are assigned to each high school and four middle schools, and elementary schools participate in the department’s DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance and Education) program. Reported crimes in Bellevue schools have decreased 29 percent since 1999. Since the inception of the domestic violence advocate position in 2001, more than 200 victims have received services or have been referred to the advocate. Chief Montgomery noted that juvenile arrest rates remain unchanged. However, more than half of the juveniles arrested do not live in Bellevue.

Chief Montgomery said the domestic violence advocate operates under a part-time (24 hours per week) contract with the King County Prosecutor’s Office. With its overwhelming case load, the program warrants expansion to a 40-hour week contract.

Mr. Mosher expressed support for expansion of the program. Responding to Mr. Degginger, Chief Montgomery said the domestic violence advocate is working to develop performance indicators to measure the program’s effectiveness.

Chief Montgomery described a proposal to create a neighborhood police station at Bellevue Transit Center in collaboration with Sound Transit. Sound Transit had indicated a willingness to provide the capital costs. Leasing and operations costs are still under development. Chief Montgomery suggested staffing the station with a new full-time officer position and volunteers.

Mr. Lee supports the neighborhood police station proposal. Responding to Mr. Degginger, Chief Montgomery said the King County Sheriff’s Office, which oversees Metro Transit Police, is also involved in the discussions.

Mayor Marshall suggested options for staffing a transit center police station including rotating Bellevue bicycle police officers, volunteers (particularly retired police officers), and hiring a regionally funded security officer.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Degginger, Chief Montgomery said the downtown presents different policing issues and challenges than the neighborhoods. He said the department is reviewing several patrol staffing models including one called geographic-based policing. Mr. Degginger questioned the anticipated impact of continued downtown development. Chief Montgomery said an emphasis on mixed-use development tends to create a safer environment than strictly office and entertainment development.

Moving on, Chief Montgomery described budgetary needs for the Eastside Communications Center. Bellevue's center provides dispatch services for Bellevue Police and Fire, the City of Clyde Hill Police, and 14 additional fire departments. The Center currently answers 90 percent of its calls within 10 seconds. The City's 2001-2002 budget authorized additional personnel. However, the dispatching workload continues to increase. Chief Montgomery said the department is currently analyzing potential staffing efficiencies and tradeoffs between the Police Records Unit and the Communications Center.

Mayor Marshall asked if the City is charging its contract customers sufficiently to cover communications services. She said Bellevue funds should not be subsidizing services to other communities.

Chief Montgomery reviewed crime statistics for 2001 and 2002. Violent crime, which is already low for a city of Bellevue's size, decreased in the first quarter of 2002. Officers responding to Priority 1 calls average 3.1 minutes. Chief Montgomery said 82 percent of survey respondents rated the police department as excellent or good, and 90 percent of respondents feel safe or moderately safe in Bellevue.

Responding to Mr. Mosher, Chief Montgomery said a full-time King County prosecutor makes all decisions regarding property seizures resulting from criminal activity. He feels the Eastside Narcotics Task Force is fair and just in this regard. He noted that often property is not seized if there is an insufficient connection between the property and the crime. Chief Montgomery will provide Council with some examples of this activity.

Continuing with the presentation, Chief Montgomery said Police Department facilities remain overcrowded and inefficient. The Communications Center is located in the basement of Fire Station #3. A temporary modular building to provide storage and training space is currently in the permitting process. City staff are working with architects to develop alternatives for a consolidated public safety facility.

Chief Montgomery said the 2001-2002 investment of video cameras in seven police cars assigned specifically to traffic enforcement has assisted in the conviction of DUI arrests. He feels the cameras add to the public's confidence that officers are conducting themselves in a professional and respectful manner. The cost of expanding the video camera program to all patrol cars in 2003-2004 is approximately \$212,000. Chief Montgomery said the expansion

could be phased over a longer period of time if desired. Deputy Mayor Degginger commented that this investment could potentially avoid expensive lawsuits.

Chief Montgomery said traffic collisions in Bellevue have decreased 19 percent over the past five years. Neighborhood patrols and the use of radar trailers have helped to increase overall traffic safety.

Mr. Noble noted citizens' concerns about drivers running red lights and speeding in neighborhoods. He questioned the appropriate patrol staffing levels for a city of Bellevue's size. Chief Montgomery said staffing is based on a number of factors including complaints, roadway construction projects, and accident statistics. He feels current patrol levels are sufficient.

Chief Montgomery discussed the challenge of construction traffic management for the Police and Transportation Departments. Staff continues to review options and seek a better solution. Currently, off-duty police officers are hired by construction contractors to direct traffic. He noted the contractors are not always clear regarding their expectations of the officers.

Mr. Lee expressed frustration with the lack of traffic management at construction sites. Responding to Mayor Marshall, Chief Montgomery said police officers can be required in a construction contract with the City but they are not required by law. Mayor Marshall requested information regarding the cost of providing officers at construction sites as well as their job descriptions.

Mr. Sarkozy explained that officers are required more to ensure a safe working environment for the contractor than to manage the flow of traffic. He will look into the issue and provide more information to Council in the near future. Mr. Lee reiterated the need to keep traffic moving. Mr. Sarkozy noted that sometimes traffic flow must be compromised in order to maintain efficiency and productivity for the construction project.

Continuing, Chief Montgomery said the Police Department continues to work with the Fire and Information Technology Departments to develop technology solutions. He said additional technology support staff is needed. The Information Technology Department will present budget recommendations on behalf of the Police and Fire Departments later this summer.

Chief Montgomery has been working with the Fire Chief to identify the appropriate level of investment in homeland security. They continue to evaluate needs for the 2003-2004 budget.

Responding to Mayor Marshall, Chief Montgomery commented that jail contracts with the City of Renton and Yakima County will save Bellevue money and enhance the future predictability of jail costs. Related staffing requirements are still being reviewed.

Mayor Marshall declared the meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Myrna L. Basich

City Clerk

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